

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## TROPICAL STORM ERNESTO SITUATION REPORT # 5 0700 Hours 1 September 2006

*New Information in Bold Italics*

### SUMMARY

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management/Virginia Emergency Operations Center has increased its awareness and preparation for the possible impact of Tropical Storm Ernesto.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Increased Readiness condition, monitoring National Hurricane Center advisories, National Weather Service and River Forecast Center forecasts, coordinating conference calls, and producing Situation Reports. FEMA ERT-A has arrived at the VEOC. *As earlier reported FEMA ERT-A is in place supporting Federal Coordinating Officer, ESF #5 Emergency Management, Logistics, Planning; ESF #14 Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation (Preliminary Damage Assessment section), ESF #1 Transportation, ESF #3 Public Works, ESF #10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response, Emergency Planning Liaison Officer, Joint Information Center – Public Affairs, and External Affairs.*

**VDEM Priorities:** Expand monitoring of the storm; Prepare for augmentation of the VEOC; Increase communications with Federal, State, Local, Volunteer and Private Partners; Coordinate Logistics readiness; Ensure communications systems are at peak readiness; Develop External Affairs Strategy.

### STATE OF EMERGENCY

Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia on August 31, 2006, allowing the deployment of Virginia National Guard personnel and other assets in preparation for Tropical Storm Ernesto. The declaration instructs state agencies to take all reasonable actions necessary to protect the health and safety of Virginians. The Governor's emergency declaration authorizes state agencies to speed assistance to communities in need. It makes state resources immediately available to rescue, evacuate, shelter, and provide essential commodities in affected localities if needed.

#### **Protective Actions:**

##### **Local Activation of EOC:**

City of Richmond – 31 August @ 1300

City of Colonial Heights – 31 August @ 0600

Henrico County – 31 August evening, partial

Fairfax County – 31 August, partial

***Chesterfield County – 1 September @ 0730***

***Waynesboro City – 31 August @ 1600***

***New Kent County – 1 September @ 700***

##### **Local State of Emergency Declared**

***Waynesboro City – 31 August @ 2000***

##### **Local Activation of Shelters:**

***Henrico County – 31 August @ 2000***

##### **Adjacent Jurisdictions:**

***North Carolina Declared a State of Emergency***

***The District of Columbia Declared a State of Emergency***

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**ESF 15 – External Affairs:** Distributing press releases and fielding media inquiries. Virginia Legislators have been added to the distribution list for Situation Reports. ***Joint Information Center (JIC) is operational.***

## WEATHER FORECAST

***Hazardous Weather Outlook, Friday 1 September:*** Outer bands of Ernesto entered the Commonwealth during the evening hours of 31 August. As a result the National Weather Service issued Tornado Watches for localities in the Southeastern, Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Eastern Shore portions of Virginia at approximately 4:45 am 1 September. The storm's center will arrive in the early afternoon and continue to bring very heavy rain which will decrease Friday evening. Areas along and east of Interstate 95 will experience 5 – 10 inches of total rainfall. Winds inland will vary between 15 – 20 miles per hour, coastal winds will vary between 20 – 30 miles per hour with gust to Tropical Storm levels (39 miles per hour). Coastal tides 1 - 2 feet above normal are likely. High temperatures will range upper 60's to low 70's and overnight low temperatures will range from upper 50's to mid 60's.

***IMPACTS:*** As Ernesto enters the Commonwealth after an unrelated rain event, wet soil conditions will increase the likelihood of trees falling causing power outages and blocked roads. Landslide probability in the mountainous regions of the Commonwealth is significant enough for the United States Geological Survey to have issued a landslide hazard alert. Flash Flood Warnings and River Flood Watches have been issued.

## OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** Virginia is currently at Hurricane Readiness Condition 4 and the Region 3, FEMA Liaison Representative arrived on Wednesday, 30 August. ***Regional Conference Calls for localities and National Weather Service were held on, Wednesday 30 August and Thursday, 31 August. A Conference Call with State Agencies for a briefing by the National Weather Service, Wakefield Office, was conducted on Wednesday, 30 August and Thursday, 31 August. VDEM has also participated in Conference Call involving the State of Maryland, FEMA National, FEMA Region III, United States Coast Guard and others. On Friday, 1 September Regional Conference Calls for localities are scheduled as follows: VDEM Regions 1 and 5 – 1000 hours; VDEM Regions 2, 3 and 7 – 1045 hours; VDEM Regions 4 and 6 – 1130 hours. A Conference Call with State Agencies will be held on Friday, 1 September at 1400 hours.***

**STATE WARNING POINT:** Monitoring National Hurricane Center and local National Weather Service advisories.

**LOCAL LIAISON:** Standing by to assist localities as requested. VEOC received one request for Water Buffalos from Hanover County on 31 August at 17:45.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services:** 11 personnel from VA-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Norfolk VA, deployed to Atlanta, GA and 21 have been placed on standby by FEMA/NDMS.

**ESF 9 – Search & Rescue:** VA Task Force 1, Fairfax County, and VA Task Force 2, VA Beach, deployed Type-III teams to Jacksonville, Florida in support of Tropical Storm Ernesto by FEMA. Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has been placed on alert status by VDEM Search and Rescue Coordinator. VA Task Force 1, Fairfax County, returned to base and Task Force 2, Virginia Beach, is scheduled to arrive at base 1700, 31 August. State Police Swift water Rescue Teams are pre-positioned: Team 1 will pre-deploy to the Pittsylvania / Halifax county area (National Weather Service is predicting a probable flood event along the Dan River); and Team 2 will stage in Fredericksburg. ***Salem City will have a 4 person swift water team available effective @ 2300 on 31 August.***

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## INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

**ESF 1 – Transportation:** VA Department of Transportation has completed preparations in accordance with Hurricane Readiness Condition 4 and is reviewing their checklist for Hurricane Readiness Condition 3. ***VDOT reports five (5) secondary roads in four (4) localities are closed due to flooding or washout. Hampton Roads/I-664/Monitor Merrimac Memorial Bridge under high wind restrictions.*** U.S. Coast Guard Section Hampton Roads reports that the Captain of the Port has, as of 900 hours, 30 August set Port Condition WHISKEY (gale force winds possible within the next 72 hours) for Tropical Storm Ernesto. The Port of Hampton Roads remains open to all vessel traffic and commercial activities. However, all mariners are advised to exercise extra precautions as the port can expect strong east to northeast winds the first half of Friday 1 September.

**ESF 12 – Energy:** *Virginia Dominion Power reports 52,831 customers without power as of 0645, 1 September.*

## LOGISTICS SECTION

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:** Standing by to coordinate federal identification and establishment of Mobilization Center and Staging Areas for commodities. FEMA has pre-positioned 90 trailers in VA and 20 more are projected to arrive on 31 August and 1 September. VDEM is mapping potential points of distribution and awaiting input from localities. VDEM has 531 generators, ranging from 20 KW to 1500 KW; 301 pumps ranging from 4" to 16"; and 45 tractor trailer loads of water available in addition to various other commodities from state contractors. 2,400,000 heater meals are available.

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